

2047.133

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

DRON ET. AL.

Application No.: 09 784,970

Filed: February 16, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR MAKING  
GRANULATED N-[N-(3,3-  
DIMETHYLBUTYL)-L- $\alpha$ -ASPARTYL]-  
L-PHENYLALANINE 1-METHYL  
ESTER

Examiner: L. Wong

Group Art Unit: 1761

October 31, 2001

**RECEIVED**

JAN 16 2002

TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

Applicants petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001, for one month from October 5, 2001, to November 5, 2001. Please deduct the \$110.00 extension fee from Deposit Account 14-1451. Please charge any additional fee required for the extension, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 14-1451.

This is in response to the Office action mailed July 5, 2001, in the above-identified case. The claims presently in the pending application are claims 1-58, with claims 1, 19, 39, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55 and 57 being independent.

Claims 1-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,480,668 issued to Nofre et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,358,186 issued to Kataoka et al.